

California's Community Clinics and Health Centers Benefit from ABX1-1

The California Primary Care Association represents over 650 community clinics and health centers (CCHCs) across California, serving more than 3 million patients annually. CCHCs are an integral part of California's health care delivery system providing high quality, comprehensive primary and preventive care to California's low-income, underserved and uninsured individuals.

CPCA continues to applaud the Governor and the Speaker for their laudable effort to secure access to care for all Californians. This historic effort, encompassed in ABX1-1, will provide unprecedented stability to the state's community clinics and health centers to continue their critical role in serving California's low income communities. CCHCs serve the very populations to be most affected under ABX1-1. CPCA and our member clinics are in strong SUPPORT of ABX1-1 because it:

- **Provides coverage for the uninsured**

Expansions of government sponsored programs like Medi-Cal and Healthy Families will likely increase the stability of all clinics but in particular, federally qualified health centers (FQHCs). FQHCs will receive an enhanced reimbursement rate for serving Medi-Cal patients, providing additional stability for the safety net which will continue to provide service to those who remain uninsured and to the newly insured populations.

- **Increases funding to the Expanding Access to Primary Care Program**

Community clinics and health centers were provided with a central role in health care reform in ABX1-1 with the commitment made by Governor Schwarzenegger and Assembly Speaker Nunez to include a historic \$140 million allocation to the state's Expanded Access to Primary Care (EAPC) program. The augmentation and program changes proposed to the EAPC program will create a safety net coverage option for those populations excluded from other parts of health care reform.

- **Increases Medi-Cal Provider Rates**

CPCA supports the proposed Medi-Cal provider rate increase, as adequate reimbursement for Medi-Cal is crucial to increasing California's capacity to serve the newly insured populations that will enter into our healthcare system under ABX1-1. Low reimbursement rates currently push providers out of Medi-Cal, limiting beneficiaries' access to care. In addition to a Medi-Cal provider rate increase for physicians and physician groups in ABX1-1, primary care clinics that receive payment via the Medi-Cal fee for service system will benefit from this rate increase in the bill.